

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

- 1.- 14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently Amended) A method of drilling an open hole in a subterranean formation, comprising the steps of:
 - circulating through the drill pipe and drill bit a well drill-in and servicing fluid comprising a viscosified fluid, a fluid loss control additive, and a bridging agent ~~comprising that~~ is a degradable material;
 - forming a self-degrading filter cake comprising the bridging agent within the formation; and
 - permitting the filter cake to self-degrade.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of forming a self-degrading filter cake comprises forming the filter cake upon the face of the formation itself, upon a sand screen, or upon a gravel pack.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of permitting the filter cake to self-degrade comprises contacting the filter cake with a degrading agent for a period of time such that the bridging agent is dissolved thereby.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the well drill-in and servicing fluid comprises the degrading agent.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the bridging agent comprises the degrading agent.
20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the degrading agent comprises water.
21. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the degradable material comprises a degradable polymer or a dehydrated compound.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the degradable polymer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, orthoesters, aliphatic polyesters, poly(glycolides), poly(lactides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones), poly(hydroxybutyrates), polyanhydrides, aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids), poly(ethylene oxides), ~~or~~ and polyphosphazenes.